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AUTHOR Wisner, Patricia; And Others
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ABSTRACT

In 1988, a study was conducted at William Rainey Harper College (WRHC) to assess the needs of registered nurses in the college's service district for continuing education courses, seminars, and workshops. A survey was mailed to 6,228 registered nurses to determine their awareness of and/or past participation in WRHC's continuing education program, their preferences for scheduling and topics, and their employment status. Survey findings, based on a 17% response rate, included the following: (1) 90% of the respondents were already familiar with WRHC's continuing education offerings for nurses, and, of these, 55% learned about the program through the college's "Continuing Education for Nurses" brochure; (2) 60% had attended one or more of WRHC's programs during the past 5 years; (3) those who had never attended cited inconvenient times as the major reason; (4) the higher the level of education the nurses had attained, the more likely they were to have attended continuing education offerings at WRHC; (5) 88% of the respondents were employed in the nursing field, with 44% working full time and 44% working part time; (6) 60% of the respondents were staff nurses and over 50% worked in hospitals; (7) the most popular continuing education topic was career options for nurses, the most popular day for a 1-day seminar was Saturday, and Monday through Thursday evenings were preferred for ongoing courses. Tables detailing survey results and the survey instrument are included. (ALB)

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Office of Planning and Research William Rainey Harper College

SURVEY OF INTEREST FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AMONG REGISTERED NURSES IN THE NORTHWEST SUBURBS

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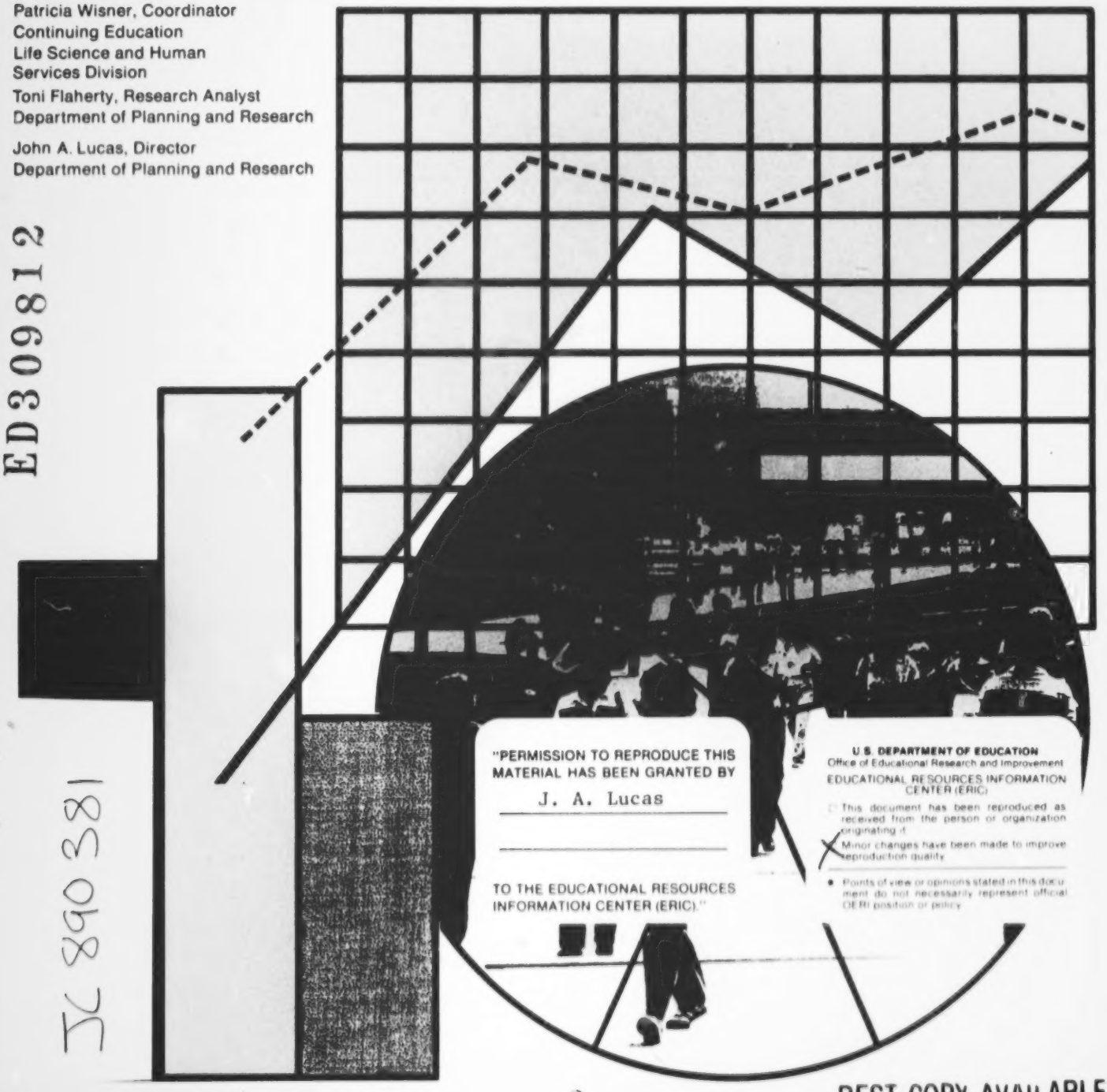
Patricia Wisner, Coordinator
Continuing Education
Life Science and Human
Services Division

Toni Flaherty, Research Analyst
Department of Planning and Research

John A. Lucas, Director
Department of Planning and Research



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A B S T R A C T

THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY WAS TO ASSESS THE CURRENT CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM AT HARPER FOR REGISTERED NURSES IN ORDER TO PLAN FUTURE CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERINGS THAT WILL BEST MEET THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF REGISTERED NURSES. A SURVEY WAS MAILED TO 6,228 REGISTERED NURSES IN THE AREA. AFTER THIS MAILING, 1,043 RETURNED THE FORM FOR A 17 PERCENT RESPONSE RATE.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY WERE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH HARPER'S CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERINGS FOR REGISTERED NURSES. THE MAIN REASON NURSES DID NOT ATTEND CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERINGS WAS DUE TO INCONVENIENT CLASS TIMES.

A LARGE NUMBER OF THOSE SURVEYED LIVE AND WORK IN THE NORTHWEST SUBURBS. THE NUMBER OF NURSES WORKING IN PART-TIME POSITIONS WAS ABOUT EQUAL TO THOSE IN FULL-TIME POSITIONS. MOST OF THE NURSES SURVEYED ARE EMPLOYED IN HOSPITALS. THE MAJOR CLINICAL AREAS VARIED SIGNIFICANTLY AMONG NURSES.

THE MOST POPULAR TOPIC OF INTEREST WAS CAREER OPTIONS FOR NURSES. THE MOST POPULAR DAY FOR A ONE-DAY SEMINAR WAS SATURDAY. WEEK NIGHTS, EXCEPT FRIDAY NIGHT, WERE MOST POPULAR FOR ONGOING COURSES.

THE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES BROCHURE PROVED TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE FOR ATTRACTING STUDENTS TO ENROLL IN THE OFFERINGS. NURSES MOST LIKELY TO ENROLL IN THESE CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERINGS WERE THOSE WITH HIGHER EDUCATION LEVELS, THOSE IN FACULTY OR MIDDLE MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AND THOSE IN NON-HOSPITAL POSITIONS.

OPERATIONAL STAFF:

Secretary: Janice A. Cook
Mailing: Linda Pones, Rebecca Beach
Mailing/Tabulation: Linda Goers
Tabulation: Karla Hill
Programming: Cal Meltesen

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to assess the current continuing education program at Harper for registered nurses in order to plan future continuing education offerings that will best meet the needs and interests of registered nurses.

METHODOLOGY AND POPULATION SURVEYED

The survey instrument shown in the appendix was designed by the Coordinator of Continuing Education for the Life Science and Human Services Division with input from the Office of Planning and Research. One mailing of the survey was made to 6,228 registered nurses in the area. This list was composed of former Harper graduates as well as registered nurses within the Harper College district. After the one mailing, 1,043 returned a completed survey form for a 17 percent response rate.

DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

Almost 90 percent of those who responded were employed in nursing and were familiar with continuing education offerings for registered nurses at Harper College. Of those familiar with Harper's continuing education offerings, 55 percent learned about the offerings from the "Continuing Education for Nurses" brochure. Another 37 percent received their information from the Harper newspaper offering schedule.

Further analysis showed that those nurses who heard about the program through the brochure were much more likely to enroll in continuing education offerings than were those who heard about them through other sources. The brochures seem to be a very effective way of marketing the Nursing Continuing Educational offerings.

During the past five years 60 percent of the registered nurses attended one or more continuing education offerings at Harper. Those who never attended offerings cited inconvenient times as the major reason.

Almost 40 percent of those responding to the survey had received a bachelor's degree or higher amd most had an advanced degree in nursing or a health related field. Interestingly, the higher the level of education the nurses possessed the more likely they were to attend continuing education offerings at Harper.

Among the registered nurses surveyed, 44 percent were employed full time and 44 percent were employed part time in the nursing field. The remaining 12 percent were not employed in the nursing field. As would be expected, those employed in the nursing field are more likely to enroll in a continuing education offering than those not employed in the field. Moreover, the topic preference for these two groups is somewhat different as the R.N. refresher course is popular among those not employed in the nursing field.

Of those surveyed, 94 percent live in the northwest suburbs and over 60 percent are employed in the northwest suburbs. Over half of those employed in nursing work in hospitals, 10 percent in physicians' offices and 8 percent in long-term care and public health/home health. Nurses employed in a hospital setting are the least likely to attend a continuing education offering at Harper. Adult medical/surgical was the major clinical area of over 17 percent of the nurses surveyed, followed by critical care (12%), obstetrics and geriatrics (9% each) and pediatrics (7%). The clinical areas most likely to attend continuing education offerings of Harper were public/home health, pediatrics, geriatrics and operating room while the clinical areas least likely to attend were critical care, obstetrics and psychiatric.

The most cited functional areas include staff nurse (60%), head nurse/charge nurse (13%), supervisor (5%), clinical specialist (4%), and director of nursing or assistant and private practice/office nurse (3% each). Nursing school faculty and middle

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS (continued)

management (head nurses and supervisors) were the most likely functional areas to attend continuing education offerings at Harper while upper management (directors of nursing) were the least likely to attend. Only 9 percent are licensed in a state other than Illinois that makes continuing education mandatory for relicensure.

The three most popular topics of interest by far were career options for nurses, legal concerns in nursing and computer use in nursing. Over 400 nurses were interested in each of these topics. Even for the least popular topic there were 78 who were interested.

There are about 7 core topics that are of high interest among all groups of nurses while the rest of the topics vary considerably in their interest level across the various groups of nurses. These 7 core topics are: Career options for nursing, legal concerns in nursing, computer use in nursing, stress management, physical assessment, medication update, and current nursing trends. There are big differences in preferences for topics by type of place of employment, by major clinical area and by major functional area. In the detailed results section, the top ten topic preferences are shown for each category of nurses.

For one-day seminars, the most popular day was Saturday followed by Wednesday. For ongoing courses, Wednesday evening was the most popular followed by Thursday evening, Tuesday evening, and Monday evening. Only 30 percent of the registered nurses responding to the survey felt it was important that an offering have approval from the Illinois Nursing Association.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

The majority of those who responded to the survey were already familiar with Harper's continuing education offerings for registered nurses. The main reason nurses did not attend continuing education offerings was due to inconvenient class times.

A large number of those surveyed live and work in the northwest suburbs. The number of nurses working in part-time positions was about equal to those in full-time positions. Most of the nurses surveyed are employed in hospitals. The major clinical areas varied significantly among nurses.

The most popular topic of interest was career options for nurses. The most popular day for a one-day seminar was Saturday. Week nights, except Friday night, were most popular for ongoing courses.

The Continuing Education for Nurses brochure proved to be very effective for attracting students to enroll in the offerings. Nurses most likely to enroll in these continuing education offerings were those with higher education levels, those in faculty or middle management positions and those in non-hospital positions.

DETAILED RESULTS

Topics of Interest by Order of Preference	N
Career options for nurses	462
Legal concerns in nursing	422
Computer use in nursing	402
Physical assessment (Adult-297 Child-171)	346
Stress management	338
Current nursing trends	335
Cardiovascular nursing	329
Medication update	328
Laboratory tests	320
Management skills	292
Abuse (Child-236 Spouse-141 Parent-159)	291
Cancer nursing	291
One day tour seminars	272
Home health skills	264
Emergency nursing	263
Alcoholism	255
Health problems of women	245
I.V. Therapy	244
Communication skills	244
Infection control	243
Pain	235
Care of the elderly	230
Death and dying	222
Critical care nursing	215
Drug abuse	207
Interviewing skills	201
Patient teaching	195
High risk mothers/babies	193
Diabetes mellitis	173
Genetic disorders	172
Suicide	168
E. C. G.	167
Respiratory disorders	164
RN refresher	164
Neurologic disorders	163
Evaluating nursing care	158
Discharge planning	157
Maternity nursing	148
Nutritional disorders	148
One/two week tours (America-90 Europe-121)	133
Psychiatric nursing	130
Rehabilitation	128
Sex related problems	112
Pediatric nursing	111
Operating room nursing	111
Orthopedic nursing	101
Health problems of men	99
E.E.N.T.	86
Physiological basis for nursing care	78

Familiar with Continuing Education Offerings at Harper College for Registered Nurses	N	PCT
Yes	925	88.9
No	115	11.1
Total	1,040	100.0

Where Registered Nurses Learn About Continuing Education Offerings at Harper College

	N	PCT
"Continuing Education for Nurses" brochure	510.43	55.4
Harper newspaper offering schedule	335.99	36.5
Employer/place of employment	20.81	2.3
Friend	15.83	1.7
Telephoned to request information	13.66	1.5
Chart magazine	7.65	.8
Mailings	8.50	.9
Former student/attended several courses	5.00	.5
Nursing spectrum magazine	1.00	.1
Northwest Community Hospital	1.00	.1
Library	1.00	.1
Wheeling Village newspaper	1.00	.1
Total	921.87	100.0

Number of Continuing Education Offerings attended at Harper College During Past Five Years

	N	PCT
None (See following list)	325	40.0
2 - 5	280	34.5
One	153	18.9
6 - 10	40	4.9
Over 10	14	1.7
Total	812	100.0

Why Registered Nurses Have not Participated in Continuing Education Courses

- Times were not convenient (127)
- Not interested in what was offered (40.5)
- Employer offers Continuing Ed Courses (24.5)
- Most offerings not related to my field (17.5)
- Not currently working in nursing (14)
- Too expensive (12.5)
- Just graduated (10)
- I am new to the area (8.50)
- Attend courses elsewhere (7)
- Classes I signed up for were canceled (5.50)
- Unemployed (5)
- Retired (4)
- Moved out of state (4)
- Taking credit courses (4)
- Too basic (4)
- Working on BSN (3)
- Just started receiving brochures (3)
- Live out of district (2)
- In graduate school (2)
- Not sure I want to stay in the profession(2)
- Going to Roosevelt (2)
- Never was informed of current offerings (2)
- Signed up now for critical care (1)
- MS and EdD, studies, professional meetings and conferences
- I've been too disgusted with nursing to put the effort in
- I will attend in the fall.
- I've taken a few "I want" CE courses
- Enrolled at NIU MSN program.
- I am attending DePaul University.
- Attend these professional organizations - ANA, NAACOG and hospitals
- I have worked with several of your course instructions and was not impressed with them as nurses. I am reluctant to experience them as teachers
- Ill
- Most are for RN's
- Mastering daily social work
- Attended Multycle Critical Care and Mgmt. seminars sponsored by critical care agencies.
- Attend A.II.A. conference on patient education and DECA/ADE
- Clinical ideas addressed rather than administrators. I am a Masters prepared RN.
- Hospitals will not reimburse
- Did take RN refresher course 6 years ago.
- Opthalmic technician

Preferences for Days for One-Day Seminars	N
Saturday	547
Wednesday	381
Tuesday	348
Thursday	343
Monday	324
Friday	289
Sunday	206
Varies	3

Preferences for Times for Weekly Continuing Education Courses for Nurses	N
Wednesday evening	421
Thursday evening	405
Tuesday evening	401
Monday evening	376
Saturday morning	307
Wednesday morning	268
Tuesday morning	247
Thursday morning	246
Monday morning	239
Friday evening	232
Saturday afternoon	217
Friday morning	214
Wednesday afternoon	154
Tuesday afternoon	141
Thursday afternoon	138
Monday afternoon	134
Friday afternoon	133
Saturday evening	103

Importance of Illinois Nurses Association Approval for Continuing Education Offerings Attended	N	PCT
Important	244	29.5
Not important	581	70.4
Total	825	100.0

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF REGISTERED NURSES

Highest Level of Nursing Education Degree	N	PCT
Diploma or Associate Degree	637.33	61.4
Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing	274.16	26.4
Masters Degree in Nursing	58.0	5.6
Baccalaureate Degree in Health Related Field	28.5	2.7
Baccalaureate Degree in Other Field	15.5	1.5
Masters in Health Related Field	14.0	1.4
Masters in Other Field	8.0	.8
PhD. - Health Related Field	2.5	.2
Total	1037.99	100.0

Employment Data Among Registered Nurses

Status	N	PCT
Employed full time	451	43.6
Employed part time	462	44.7
Not employed in nursing	121	11.7
Total	1,034	100.0

Place of Employment

Hospital	513.33	56.5
Physician's office	88.66	9.8
Long-term care	75.00	8.3
Public health/home health	68.50	7.5
Clinic/H.M.O.	44.82	4.9
School health	43.50	4.8
Occupational health	23.66	2.6
Nursing education	15.00	1.7
Insurance	13.50	1.5
Marketing/consulting	7.0	.8
Emergency treatment center/satellite	5.0	.5
Nursing home	4.0	.4
Rehabilitation centers	3.5	.4
Medical review	2.0	.2
Research	.5	.1
Total	907.97	100.0

City of Residence

Arlington Heights	- 191	Carpentersville
Palatine	- 146	Crystal Lake
Schaumburg	- 124	Clarendon Hills
Mt. Prospect	- 108	Bensenville
Hoffman Estates	- 78	Elmhurst
Elk Grove Village	- 61	Brookfield
Rolling Meadows	- 48	Glendale Heights
Barrington	- 47	Tower Lakes
Des Plaines	- 42	Hawthorn Woods
Buffalo Grove	- 39	Wonder Lake
Wheeling	- 34	Springfield
Prospect Heights	- 17	West Dundee
Did not respond	- 16	Oak Park
Chicago	- 9	Waukegan
Roselle	- 7	Buff Ridge
Streamwood	- 6	Sleepy Hollow
Glenview	- 5	Wildwood
Rosemont	- 4	Carol Stream
Inverness	- 4	Norridge
Lake Zurich	- 3	North Aurora
Barrington Hills	- 3	Ann Arbor, Michigan
St. Charles	- 3	Northfield
Park Ridge	- 2	Rockford
South Barrington	- 2	Viroqua, Wisconsin
Long Grove	- 2	Fort Meyers, Florida
Elgin	- 2	Ithaca, New York
Highland Park		Santa Fe, New Mexico
Mundelein		Union, Kentucky

City of Nursing Employment

Arlington Heights	- 203.08	Winfield	- 3.33	Northlake	
Chicago	- 86.33	Oak Park	- 3	Wheaton	
Elk Grove Village	- 85.25	Libertyville	- 3	Ann Arbor, MI.	
Park Ridge	- 80.16	Westchester	- 3	Ithaca, New York	
Des Plaines	- 70.08	Riverwoods	- 3	Brown Deer, Wisc.	
Hoffman Estates	- 51.83	North Chicago	- 3	New Kent, Virginia	
Barrington	- 37.83	Cicero	- 2	Santa Fe, New Mex.	
Palatine	- 33.66	Oakbrook	- 2	Lake Zurich	
Schaumburg	- 24.33	River Grove	- 2	Roselle	
Evanston	- 20.83	Bloomingdale	- 2	Crystal Lake	
Glenview	- 19.50	Glen Ellyn	- 1.5	Naperville	
No Response	- 16.00	Berwyn	- 1.5	Itasca	
Elgin	- 13	Deerfield	- 1.33	North Cook County	
Rolling Meadows	- 10.83	Morton Grove	- 1.33	Lake County	
Skokie	- 9.33	Oak Lawn	- .50	Maine Township	
Buffalo Grove	- 9	Prairie View	- .50	Dupage County	
Maywood	- 9	Suburbs	- .50	Cook County	
Elmhurst	- 8	Carpentersville-	.50		
Glendale Hgts.	- 8	School District			
NW Suburbs Agency	- 7.5	Lake Bluff			
Melrose Park	- 7.5	Waukegan			
Mt. Prospect	- 6.58	Bartlett			
All over	- 6	Streamwood			
Highland Park	- 4.83	North Barrington			
Lake Forest	- 4	Hinsdale			
Downers Grove	- 4	Springfield			
Long Grove	- 4	Addison			
Northbrook	- 3.50	Franklin Park			
Hines	- 3.50	Wooddale			
Wheeling	- 3.50	Carol Stream			

Major Clinical Area	N	PCT
Adult Medial/Surgical	154.21	17.2
Critical Care	107.47	12.0
Obstetrics	82.80	9.2
Geriatrics	77.87	8.7
Pediatrics	63.32	7.1
Public/Home Health	48.37	5.4
Operating Room	50.06	5.6
Psychiatric	36.23	4.0
Orthopedics	33.00	3.7
Emergency Room	28.28	3.1
Rehabilitation	22.19	2.5
Ambulatory Care	17.00	1.9
Oncology	16.50	1.8
Administration	11.50	1.3
Substance Abuse	11.00	1.2
Neonatal ICU	10.30	1.1
Float Pool	8.53	1.0
Telemetry	8.00	.9
School nurse	7.00	.8
Allergies	6.50	.7
Cardiac Surveillance	5.00	.6
Nursery	4.83	.5
Family Practice	4.33	.5
Quality Assurance	4.00	.4
Patient Education	3.50	.4
Other (See List on Next Page)	70.02	7.8
Total	891.81	100.0

Other Major Clinical Areas

Anesthesia	- 3	Office Nurse
Utilization Reviews	- 3	Mentally Handicapped
IV Therapy	- 3	G.I.
Dermatology	- 3	L and D
Wellness	- 3	NSY
Hospice	- 2.33	Gastrointerology
PARR	- 2.00	Teaching, Internist EKG, Blood Draw
UR	- 2.00	Cancer
Urcology	- 1.50	Pre-hospital care/EMS
Blood Banking	- 1.50	Medical Review
Dialysis	- 1.50	Family Health
Nutrition	- 1.50	Hypertension
Opthamology	- 1.20	Spinal Cord Injury
Urology	- .50	Arthritis and Physical Therapy
Developmental Disabilities	- .50	Alzheimer's
		PACU
Lay Education	- .50	Residence for Mentally Retarded
Pain Control & Nursing Home Supplier and In-service	- .50	Skilled Nursing
		School health, maternal child health at hospital level
Cast room	- .50	Donor relations, Autologous Donations, Designated Donors
Peritoneal Dialysis	- .50	
Gynecology Urology Dialysis	- .50	Infertility
		Agency
Renal Surveillance	- .50	Practitioners, Teacher - Continuing Ed
Endocrem, Metabolic, Derm. Rheumatology	- .50	Neuro, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Sleep Disorder Center
Acute Hemodrolysis	- .50	ICF-OO
Nephrology	- .50	CSU
Out Patient Ortho Setting	- .50	Infection Control
		Woman's Health
Nursery Level III	- .50	Research
Neurology	- .50	Radiology
GYN	- .50	PT Advocate
Cardiac Cath Lab	- .50	
House Supervision	- .50	
Medicare	- .50	
All as they relate to claims processing	- .50	
Internal Medicine	- .33	
23 Observation COCA	- .33	
Maternity/child care in particular	- .33	
Total	----	70.02

Major Functional Area	N	PCT
Staff Nurse	541.33	60.1
Head Nurse/Charge Nurse	112.16	12.5
Supervisor	42.83	4.8
Clinical Specialist	33.50	3.7
Private Practice/Office Nurse	30.50	3.4
Director of Nursing or Assistant	29.50	3.3
School Nurse	17.00	1.9
Program Coordinator	13.50	1.5
School of Nursing Faculty	13.00	1.4
In Service/Continuing Education	10.66	1.2
Manager	9.75	1.1
Administrator	8.00	.9
Health Education	6.58	.7
Consultant/Advisor	5.00	.6
Patient Advocate/Patient Relations	4.50	.5
Utilization Review	3.00	.3
Quality Assurance	3.00	.3
Rehabilitation Specialist	3.00	.3
Marketing of Medical Services	2.50	.3
Human Resources - Staff Development	2.00	.2
Occupational Health	1.50	.2
Chairperson Health Services	1.00	.1
Qualified Mental Retardation Professional	1.00	.1
CNM	1.00	.1
Midwest Hospital Liaison	1.00	.1
Hoffman Estates Health Department	1.00	.1
E.T.	1.00	.1
Research	.83	.1
High Risk Maternal Transport Team	.33	.1
Total	899.97	100.0

Licensed in a State Other than Illinois that Requires Mandatory Continuing Education for Relicensure	N	PCT
No	925	91.3
Yes (See Following List for specific state)	88	8.7
Total	1,013	100.0

Currently Licensed in a State Other Than Illinois That Requires Mandatory Continuing Education for Relicensure

List of States

Iowa	- 11.50	New Jersey	- 1.83
California	- 9	Connecticut	- 1.50
Wisconsin	- 8	New Mexico	- 1.33
New York	- 7	Arkansas	- 1
Ohio	- 6.33	Ontario, CAN	- 1
Kentucky	- 5.50	Texas	- 1
Pennsylvania	- 5	North Dakota	- 1
Massachusetts	- 5	New Hampshire	- 1
Florida	- 5	Virginia	- 1
Minnesota	- 4.50	Maryland	- 1
Indiana	- 3.33	Licensed in 4	- 1
Nebraska	- 2	Delaware	- .50
Michigan	- 1.83	Arizona	- .50
		South Carolina	- .33

CONTINUING EDUCATION ENROLLMENT HISTORY

Currently Licensed in a State Other than Illinois

Number of Offerings Enrolled In	YES N	YES PCT	NO N	NO PCT
None	40	44.9	382	46.9
One	16	18.0	136	16.7
Two to Five	24	27.0	252	31.0
Six to Ten	3	3.4	36	4.4
Over Ten	6	6.7	8	1.0
Total	89	100.0	814	100.0
Average	2.20		1.72	
PCT Attending Two or More	37.1		36.4	

Frequency of Attendance at Continuing Education Offerings for Registered Nurses In Rank Order by Various Attributes of Nurses

Number of Offerings Enrolled in	How Registered Nurse Heard About Program: Continuing Education for Nurses Brochure N	PCT	Harper Newspaper Offering Schedule N	PCT	Other N	PCT
None	184	42.7	217	49.4	30	61.2
One	70	16.3	74	16.9	10	20.4
Two to Five	147	34.1	125	28.5	7	14.3
Six to Ten	23	5.3	16	3.6	2	4.1
Over Ten	7	1.6	7	1.6	0	0
Total	431	100.0	439	100.0	49	100.0
Average	1.98		1.65		1.03	
PCT attending two or more	41.0		33.7		18.4	

Number of Offerings Enrolled in	Education Level: Masters N	PCT	Baccalaureate N	PCT	Associate Degree N	PCT
None	27	49.1	104	45.0	267	45.8
One	5	9.1	35	15.1	106	18.2
Two to Five	19	34.5	76	32.9	176	30.2
Six to Ten	1	1.8	14	6.1	25	4.3
Over Ten	3	5.5	2	.9	9	1.5
Total	55	100.0	231	100.0	583	100.0
Average	2.10		1.89		1.77	
PCT attending 2 or more	41.8		39.9		36.0	

Employment Status

Number of Offerings Enrolled in	Full Time N	Full Time PCT	Part Time N	Part Time PCT	Not Employed N	Not Employed PCT
None	172	44.0	190	45.5	64	62.7
One	65	16.6	78	18.6	10	9.8
Two to Five	128	32.7	122	29.2	26	25.5
Six to Ten	19	4.9	21	5.0	2	2.0
More than Ten	7	1.8	7	1.7	0	0
Total	391	100.0	418	100.0	102	100.0
Average	1.92		1.81		1.15	
PCT attending 2 or more	39.4		36.4		27.5	

Employer Type

	Other* N	Other* PCT	Long Term Care N	Long Term Care PCT	Public Health Home Health N	Public Health Home Health PCT	Physicians Office/Clinic N	Physicians Office/Clinic PCT	Hospital N	Hospital PCT
None	18	26.5	20	28.6	19	35.8	35	38.4	240	51.4
One	7	10.3	17	24.3	11	20.8	18	19.8	84	18.0
2 - 5	37	54.4	30	42.8	19	35.8	31	34.1	115	24.6
6 - 10	5	7.3	2	2.9	3	5.7	6	6.6	19	4.1
10 or more	1	1.5	1	1.4	1	1.9	1	1.1	9	1.9
Total	68	100.0	70	100.0	53	100.0	91	100.0	467	100.9
Average		2.77		2.14		2.14		2.05		1.60
PCT Attending 2 or more		63.2		47.1		43.4		41.8		30.6

CONTINUING EDUCATION ENROLLMENT
BY
MAJOR CLINICAL AREA IN RANK ORDER OF ATTENDANCE

Number of Offerings Enrolled in	Public/ Home Health N	Public/ Home Health PCT	Pediatrics N	Pediatrics PCT	Geriatrics N	Geriatrics PCT
None	11	29.7	17	35.4	23	30.3
One	6	16.2	8	16.7	17	22.4
Two to Five	14	37.9	20	41.6	33	43.4
Six to Ten	6	16.2	2	4.2	2	2.6
Over Ten	0	0	1	2.1	1	1.3
Total	37	100.0	48	100.0	76	100.0
Average	2.78		2.21		2.11	
PCT Attending 2 or more	54.1		47.9		47.3	

Number of Offerings Enrolled in	Operating Room N	Operating Room PCT	Rehabilitation N	Rehabilitation PCT	Adult Medical/Surgery N	Adult Medical/Surgery PCT
None	19	44.2	7	53.8	80	47.1
One	6	14.0	1	7.7	25	14.7
Two to Five	13	30.2	5	38.5	52	30.6
Six to Ten	4	9.3	0	0	8	4.7
Over Ten	1	2.3	0	0	5	2.9
Total	43	100.0	13	100.0	170	100.0
Average	2.22		1.42		1.95	
PCT Attending 2 or more	41.8		38.5		38.2	

Number of Offerings Enrolled in	Orthopedics N	Orthopedics PCT	Obstetrics N	Obstetrics PCT	Critical Care N	Critical Care PCT
None	15	50.0	40	54.0	54	55.1
One	4	13.3	13	17.6	20	20.4
Two to Five	10	33.4	20	27.0	18	18.4
Six to Ten	1	3.3	0	0	5	5.1
Over Ten	0	0	1	1.4	1	1.0
Total	30	100.0	74	100.0	98	100.0
Average	1.57		1.28		1.38	
PCT Attending 2 or more	36.7		28.4		24.5	

Number of Offerings Enrolled in	Psychiatric N	Psychiatric PCT
None	16	61.5
One	5	19.2
Two to Five	4	15.4
Six to Ten	1	3.9
Over Ten	0	0
Total	26	100.0
Average	1.04	
PCT Attending 2 or more	19.3	

CONTINUING EDUCATION ENROLLMENT
BY
MAJOR FUNCTIONAL AREA IN RANK ORDER OF ATTENDANCE

	Faculty School of Nursing		Supervisor		Head Nurse	
	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
None	3	27.3	12	31.6	28	37.8
One	0	0	5	13.1	15	20.3
Two to Five	8	72.7	18	47.4	26	35.1
Six to Ten	0	0	2	5.3	5	6.8
Over Ten	0	0	1	2.6	0	0
Total	11	100.0	38	100.0	74	100.0
Average	2.55		2.53		1.97	
PCT Attending 2 or more	72.7		55.3		41.9	

	Clinical Specialist In Service/Continuing Education		Staff Nurse		Director of Nursing	
	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
None	16	48.5	248	48.5	10	43.5
One	5	15.1	85	16.6	7	30.4
Two to Five	10	30.3	144	28.2	6	26.1
Six to Ten	2	6.1	25	4.9	0	0
Over Ten	0	0	9	1.8	0	0
Total	33	100.0	511	100.0	23	100.0
Average	1.70		1.76		1.22	
PCT Attending 2 or more	36.4		34.9		26.1	

TOP TEN TOPICS FOR EACH CATEGORY OF NURSE

Baccalaureate Degree	Frequency
Career options for nursing	129
Legal concerns in nursing	120
Computer use in nursing	116
Current nursing trends	92
Medication update	87
Physical assessment	86
Cardiovascular nursing	83
Abuse	82
Stress management	79
Management skills	79

Master's Degree	Frequency
Computer Use in Nursing	31
Legal concerns in nursing	28
Career options for nursing	21
Current nursing trends	19
Stress management	18
Health problems of women	17
Patient teaching	16
Physical assessment	16
Management skills	15
Cancer nursing	15

Associate Degree	Frequency
Career options for nursing	289
Legal concerns in nursing	251
Computer use in nursing	235
Physical assessment	229
Stress management	228
Laboratory tests	228
Cardiovascular nursing	223
Medication update	214
Current nursing trends	203
Cancer Nursing	196

Full-Time Employment	Frequency
Legal concerns in nursing	207
Career options for nursing	189
Computer use in nursing	187
Stress management	175
Management skills	167
Physical assessment	153
Cardiovascular nursing	138
Current nursing trends	133
Infection control	126
Abuse	121

Part-Time Employment	Frequency
Career options for nursing	202
Legal concerns in nursing	170
Laboratory tests	164
Computer use in nursing	162
Physical assessment	161
Cardiovascular nursing	156
Medication update	152
Cancer nursing	151
Current nursing trends	150
Abuse	141

Not Employed in Nursing	Frequency
Career options for nursing	65
RN refresher	56
Computer use in nursing	54
Medication update	52
Current nursing trends	45
Legal concerns in nursing	43
Home health skills	42
Alcoholism	39
Abuse	39
Health problems of women	39

TOP TEN TOPICS BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Hospital	Frequency
Career options for nursing	253
Legal concerns in nursing	236
Cardiovascular nursing	201
Computer use in nursing	199
Stress management	184
Physical assessment	180
Laboratory tests	177
Critical care nursing	154
Medication update	151
Current nursing trends	151

Long-Term Care	Frequency
Care of the elderly	61
Management skills	37
Physical assessment	34
Infection control	32
Legal concerns in nursing	31
Stress management	30
Current nursing trends	28
Evaluating nursing care	28
Cancer nursing	28
Medication update	28

Public Health/Home Health	Frequency
Home health skills	35
Cancer nursing	34
Current nursing trends	29
Computer use in nursing	27
Care of the elderly	26
Legal concerns in nursing	26
Physical assessment	25
Career options for nursing	23
Medication update	23
Pain	21

Physician's Office	Frequency
Career options for nursing	31
Laboratory tests	31
Current nursing trends	29
Computer use in nursing	29
Abuse	26
Medication update	25
Communication skills	24
Health problems of women	23
Home health skills	23
One-day tour seminars	23

Clinic/HMO	Frequency
Career options for nursing	15
Medication update	15
Health problems of women	14
Physical assessment	13
Legal concerns in nursing	12
Emergency nursing	12
Laboratory tests	11
Computer use in nursing	11
Stress management	11
Home health skills	11

School Health	Frequency
Abuse	25
Drug abuse	20
Legal concerns in nursing	17
Alcoholism	17
Physical assessment	17
Computer use in nursing	16
Interviewing skills	15
Stress management	14
Suicide	13
One-day tour seminars	13

Occupational Health	Frequency
Computer use in nursing	12
Stress management	9
Emergency nursing	9
One-day tour seminars	8
Physical assessment	8
Current nursing trends	7
Legal concerns in nursing	7
Cardiovascular nursing	6
Infection control	6
Home health skills	6

Nursing Education	Frequency
Cancer nursing	7
Computer use in nursing	7
Abuse	6
Legal concerns in nursing	6
Career options for nursing	6
Stress management	6
Health problems of women	6
Neurologic disorders	5
Physical assessment	5
Genetic disorders	5

TOP TEN TOPICS BY MAJOR CLINICAL AREA

Adult Medical/Surgical	Frequency
Cancer nursing	88
Physical assessment	81
Career options for nursing	79
Computer use in nursing	79
Legal concerns in nursing	76
Cardiovascular nursing	73
Laboratory tests	69
Stress management	68
Medication update	65
Home health skills	64

Critical Care Area	Frequency
Cardiovascular nursing	73
Critical care nursing	70
Career options for nursing	62
Legal concerns in nursing	53
Stress management	43
Emergency nursing	42
Laboratory tests	36
Physical assessment	35
Management skills	35
Computer use in nursing	34

Geriatrics Area	Frequency
Care of the elderly	76
Physical assessment	40
Management skills	40
Infection control	38
Legal concerns in nursing	37
Current nursing trends	35
Medication update	35
Death and dying	35
Cancer nursing	33
I.V. Therapy	32

Obstetrics Care	Frequency
High risk mothers/babies	71
Maternity nursing	67
Career options for nursing	42
Health problems of women	37
Legal concerns in nursing	35
Computer use in nursing	30
Abuse	28
Genetic disorders	27
Physical assessment	27
Laboratory tests	25

Operating Room Care	Frequency
Career options for nursing	26
Operating room nursing	24
Computer use in nursing	23
Legal concerns in nursing	18
Cardiovascular nursing	17
Management skills	16
One-day tour seminars	16
I.V. therapy	15
Critical care nursing	13
Infection control	13

Orthopedics Care	Frequency
Orthopedic nursing	23
Career options for nursing	16
Legal concerns in nursing	16
Laboratory tests	15
Physical assessment	14
Stress management	12
Pain	12
Emergency nursing	10
Current nursing trends	10
Patient teaching	10

Pediatrics Care	Frequency
Pediatric nursing	35
Abuse	28
Computer use in nursing	24
Legal concerns in nursing	20
Physical assessment	19
Career options for nursing	19
Laboratory tests	16
High risk mothers/babies	16
Drug abuse	14
Home health skills	13

Psychiatric Care	Frequency
Psychiatric nursing	27
Alcoholism	23
Abuse	19
Drug abuse	18
Suicide	18
Legal concerns in nursing	16
Interviewing skills	15
Career options for nursing	14
Management skills	14
Computer use in nursing	13

TOP TEN TOPICS BY MAJOR CLINICAL AREA (continued)

Public/Home Health Care	Frequency	Rehabilitation Care	Frequency
Home health skills	21	Rehabilitation	11
Current nursing trends	20	Career options for nursing	9
Computer use in nursing	19	Medication update	9
Cancer nursing	18	Computer use in nursing	8
Legal concerns in nursing	17	Legal concerns in nursing	7
Communication skills	15	Current nursing trends	6
Stress management	14	Care of the elderly	6
Physical assessment	13	Interviewing skills	5
Medication update	13	Cardiovascular nursing	5
Abuse	13	Laboratory tests	4

TOP TEN TOPICS BY MAJOR FUNCTIONAL AREA

Staff Nurse	Frequency	Head Nurse/Charge Nurse	Frequency
Career options for nursing	263	Management skills	40
Legal concerns in nursing	231	Computer use in nursing	37
Laboratory tests	209	Legal concerns in nursing	36
Physical assessment	207	Career options for nursing	34
Cardiovascular nursing	203	One-day tour seminars	32
Computer use in nursing	197	Cardiovascular nursing	32
Medication update	184	Stress management	31
Stress management	182	Current nursing trends	27
Cancer nursing	171	Abuse	26
Current nursing trends	170	Interviewing skills	23

Supervisor	Frequency	Dir. of Nursing or Asst.	Frequency
Management skills	24	Management skills	21
Stress management	20	Legal concerns in nursing	17
Current nursing trends	19	Care of the elderly	16
Career options for nursing	18	Stress management	16
Computer use in nursing	17	Physical assessment	16
I.V. therapy	17	Computer use in nursing	15
Legal concerns in nursing	16	Infection control	14
One-day tour seminars	14	Evaluating nursing care	13
Physical assessment	14	Communication skills	13
Communication skills	14	Interviewing skills	12

Clinical Specialist	Frequency	In-Service/Continuing Ed	Frequency
Computer use in nursing	18	Legal concerns in nursing	5
Career options for nursing	10	Infection control	4
Management skills	9	Care of the elderly	4
Legal concerns in nursing	9	Abuse	4
Patient teaching	9	Computer use in nursing	4
Stress management	8	Management skills	4
Physical assessment	8	Discharge planning	3
One/two-week tours	7	Evaluating nursing care	3
Communication skills	6	Patient teaching	3
Health problems of women	6	Interviewing skills	3

TOP TEN TOPICS BY MAJOR FUNCTIONAL AREA (continued)

School of Nursing Faculty	Frequency	Director/School of Nursing	Frequency
Cancer nursing	6	No Tallies Recorded	
Computer use in nursing	6		
Legal concerns in nursing	5		
Current nursing trends	5		
I.V. therapy	5		
Health problems of women	5		
Stress management	5		
Abuse	5		
Career options for nursing	5		
Physical assessment	5		

A P P E N D I X

- Cover Letter

- Survey Instrument

William Rainey Harper College
1200 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067-7398
312-397-3000

February 15, 1988

Dear Registered Nurse:

Five years ago we sent a Needs Assessment Survey to registered nurses in the Harper College District. The overwhelming response we received from that survey was very helpful to us in planning courses, seminars and workshops for nurses over the past five years.

Since nursing is constantly evolving and changing, so are your continuing education needs. Therefore, we need your help again. By completing and returning to us this survey, in the enclosed envelope, you can make a significant contribution toward our efforts in planning continuing education offerings that will best meet your needs and interests.

Please return the survey by March 25, 1988.

Thank you for your consideration to our request. If you have any questions concerning continuing education at Harper College or have nursing expertise you wish to share with other nurses through continuing education, feel free to write or call me at 397-3000, extension 2687.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Wisner

Patricia A. Wisner, R.N., M.S.N.
Coordinator, Continuing Education
Life Science and Human Services Division

PAW:df

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE
CONTINUING EDUCATION
LIFE SCIENCE AND HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Needs Assessment Survey - Registered Nurses

Please check (✓) and/or fill in the appropriate responses for each question.

1. Are you familiar with Continuing Education offerings for registered nurses at Harper College?
   ____ Yes ____ No (If no, skip to No. 4.)

2. Where do you learn about Continuing Education offerings for registered nurses at Harper? (Check the one that most applies.)
   ____ a. Harper newspaper offering schedule
   ____ b. Continuing Education for Nurses brochure
   ____ c. Friend
   ____ d. Employer/Place of employment
   ____ e. Telephoned to request information
   ____ f. Chart magazine
   ____ g. Other (specify) _____

3. How many Continuing Education offerings for nurses at Harper have you participated in, over the past five (5) years.
   ____ a. 1
   ____ b. 2 - 5
   ____ c. 6 - 10
   ____ d. Over 10
   ____ e. None (State reason) _____

4. What is a good day for you to attend a one-day Continuing Education offering at Harper? (Check (✓) all that apply.)
   ____ a. Sunday
   ____ b. Monday
   ____ c. Tuesday
   ____ d. Wednesday
   ____ e. Thursday
   ____ f. Friday
   ____ g. Saturday

5. What is a good day and time for you to attend a weekly Continuing Education offering for nurses at Harper? (Check (✓) all that apply.)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning						
Afternoon						
Evening						

6. First, please check (✓) those topics you would like to see offered.

   Second, on the line below indicate the specific items you would like to see covered about that topic.

   ____ 1) Abuse ____ Child ____ Spouse ____ Parent
   _____

   ____ 2) Alcoholism
   _____

   ____ 3) Cancer Nursing
   _____

6. First, please check (✓) those topics you would like to see offered.

   Second, on the life below indicate the specific items you would like to see covered about that topic.

____ 4) Cardiovascular Nursing

____ 5) Career Options for Nurses

____ 6) Care of the Elderly

____ 7) Communication Skills

____ 8) Computer Use in Nursing

____ 9) Current Nursing Trends

____ 10) Critical Care Nursing

____ 11) Death and Dying

____ 12) Diabetes Mellitis

____ 13) Discharge Planning

____ 14) Drug Abuse

____ 15) E.C.G.

____ 16) E.E.N.T.

____ 17) Emergency Nursing

____ 18) Evaluating Nursing Care

____ 19) Genetic Disorders

____ 20) Health Problems of Men

6. First, please check (✓) those topics you would like to see offered.

Second, on the life below indicate the specific items you would like to see covered about that topic.

____ 21) Health Problems of Women

____ 22) High Risk Mothers/Babies

____ 23) Home Health Skills

____ 24) Infection Control

____ 25) Interviewing Skills

____ 26) I.V. Therapy

____ 27) Laboratory Tests

____ 28) Legal Concerns in Nursing

____ 29) Management Skills

____ 30) Maternity Nursing

____ 31) Medication Update

____ 32) Neurologic Disorders

____ 33) Nutritional Disorders

____ 34) One Day Tour Seminars

____ 35) One/Two Week Tours ____ America ____ Europe

____ 36) Operating Room Nursing

____ 37) Orthopedic Nursing

6. First, please check (✓) those topics you would like to see offered.

   Second, on the life below indicate the specific items you would like to see covered about that topic.

   ____ 38) Pain

   ____ 39) Patient Teaching

   ____ 40) Pediatric Nursing

   ____ 41) Physical Assessment ____ Adult ____ Child

   ____ 42) Physiological Basis for Nursing Care

   ____ 43) Psychiatric Nursing

   ____ 44) Rehabilitation

   ____ 45) Respiratory Disorders

   ____ 46) RN Refresher

   ____ 47) Sex Related Problems

   ____ 48) Stress Management

   ____ 49) Suicide

7. Please list any additional topics you would like to see offered.

8. Please answer the following statistical information.

a. City of residence _____

b. City of nursing employment _____

c. Highest level of nursing education
_____ 1. Diploma or Associate Degree
_____ 2. Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing
_____ 3. Master's Degree in Nursing
_____ 4. Other (Specify) _____

d. What is your nursing employment status?
_____ 1. Full time _____ 2. Part time _____ 3. Not employed in nursing (Skip to Item h)

e. What is your place of employment?
_____ 1. Hospital
_____ 2. Long term care
_____ 3. Public health/home health
_____ 4. Physician's office
_____ 5. Clinic/H.M.O.
_____ 6. School health
_____ 7. Occupational health
_____ 8. Nursing education
_____ 9. Other (Specify) _____

f. What is your major clinical area?
_____ 1. Adult medical/surgical
_____ 2. Critical care
_____ 3. Geriatrics
_____ 4. Obstetrics
_____ 5. Operating Room
_____ 6. Orthopedics
_____ 7. Pediatrics
_____ 8. Psychiatric
_____ 9. Public/Home health
_____ 10. Rehabilitation
_____ 11. Other (Specify) _____

g. What is your major functional area?
_____ 1. Staff nurse
_____ 2. Head nurse/Charge nurse
_____ 3. Supervisor
_____ 4. Director of Nursing or Assistant
_____ 5. Clinical Specialist
_____ 6. In Service/Continuing Education
_____ 7. School of Nursing faculty
_____ 8. Director of School of Nursing
_____ 9. Other (Specify) _____

h. Are your currently licensed in a state other than Illinois that requires mandatory Continuing Education for relicensure?
_____ 1. Yes (Specify state/s): _____
_____ 2. No

i. Is it important to you that an offering you attend has approval from the Illinois Nurses Association?
_____ No _____ Yes (Please explain why) _____

_____

9. Any additional comments or suggestions.

Thank you for your help.

ERIC Clearinghouse for
Junior Colleges SEP 22 1989